



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

February 1, 2010

Governor William R. Rhodes
Gila River Indian Community
Governance Center
P.O. Box 2138
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Dear Governor Rhodes:

On behalf of the people of Arizona, I want to express my appreciation for the assistance of the Gila River Indian Community to consider a potential partnership between the State and the Community on the issue of the development of the South Mountain Freeway.

I am in receipt of your letter sent to the Arizona Department of Transportation and I pledge the full engagement of the Department in working with your sovereign nation to conduct a study of the effects of an On-Reservation alignment consistent with the Community's land use plans and the desire to mitigate cultural impacts to South Mountain.

I understand and respect that the Community's position opposing an On-Reservation alignment and any desecration of South Mountain remains the same. I am hopeful for the opportunities that may exist to consider the economic development potential of this much-needed transportation corridor, while mitigating any negative impacts to the Community's culture and land.

While there is much work still to be done regarding the final alignment of the route, I am pleased to know that your team is part of the conversation and that there is a path forward for ongoing talks about the conditions of the Community's cooperation and involvement in the study process.

Please do not hesitate to call on me or my team if there is anything we can do to help further your consideration of this very critical regional project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Janice K. Brewer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janice" being the most prominent.

Janice K. Brewer
Governor